Poonch Sector is a regular phenomenon and has been continuing over the year. The details of casualties in 1998 (upto 27 May 1998) are as follows:

Army		BSF		CIVILIANS	
Killed	Wounded	Killed	Wounded	Killed	Wounded
4	27	—	3	—	—

(c) and (d) Barbed wire fencing along the line of Actual Control in Jammu & Kashmir is not feasible in view of the rugged nature of the terrain, due to rivers, nullahs and streams and the inability to keep such obstacle system in continuous observation and denomination by fire. However, to check infiltration and smuggling of arms & ammunition etc, through Jammu International Border, barbed wire fencing/flood lighting was earlier contemplated but due to firing from Pakistan side, the work was stopped. The matter regarding restarting of the work is under active consideration of the Government.

Outstanding Dues of Sebs

1595. SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that most of electricity boards are running at a loss and crores of rupees are outstanding as dues to the Public Sector Undertakings such as National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC). Coal India Ltd., Railways. etc. by SEBs;

(b) if so, the details of the loss incurred by the SEBs during 1993-94, 1994-95, 1995-96 and 1997-98 and outstanding dues to Public Sector Undertakings during these years; and

(c) the main reason for SEBs incurring huge losses?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI R. KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The surplus/deficit of the SEBs during 1993-94, 1994-95 and 1995-96 are enclosed at Annexure-I [*See* Appendix 148, Annexure No 51] The accounts of the State Electricity Boards are required to be forwarded to the Central Electricity Authority within six months of the close of the year to which the accounts relate. As such, the accounts for the year 1997-98 are not available. A statement indicating the outstanding dues of the Central Power Sector Undertakings against SEBs etc., as on 31.3.1994, 31.3.1995, 31.3.1996, 31.3.1997 and 31.3.1998 is enclosed at Annexure-II. [*See* Appendix 184 Annexure No. 51]

(c) The main reasons of the losses of the SEBs, inter alia include the widening gap between the average cost of supply and realisation, delay as well as inadequate revision of tariff, non-realisation of the dues by SEBs for sale of power, low levels of capacity utilisation of existing plants and high transmission and distribution losses.

Power Projects by Foreign Investors

1596. SHRI RAHASBIHARI BARIK: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether some foreign investors participating in the power sector;

(b) whether the foreign investors have got the approval of their own Government for setting up of power plants in India.

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the details of the investment made by each investor in different power projects?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI R. KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The private sector power policy of the Government of India is aimed at attracting private investments in this sector, including investments by foreign companies. However, grant of permission to the foreign investors by their own respective Governments is governed by their own Laws and the Government of India does not have/ require any infomation in this regard.

(b) The actual investment made by the investors in their power projects could be known only after the projects achieve financial closure, complete construction and the final financial package is cleared by the Central Electricity Authority.

Power Deficit in North India

1597. SHRI BHAGABAN MAJHI: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the power situation in North India is very much unsatisfactory;

(b) if so, the State-wise position as on date;

(c) the reasons for the deficit of power in the North Indian States; and

(d) the steps taken to improve the power situation in North India?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI KUMARAMANGALAM) : (a) The power supply position in Northern Region during the months of March & April, 1998 was by and large satisfactory and energy shortages were less than 4%. However, during the month of May, 1998 energy shortage increased to over 8%.

(b) State-wise power supply position in Northern Region during April, 1998 & May, 1998 is given below:

State	April, 1998				May, 1998			
	Reqt.	Avail	Short-age	%	Reqt.	Avail	Short-age	%
Chandigarh	75	75	0	0.0	100	99	1	1.0
Delhi	1290	1271	19	1.5	1505	1439	66	4.4
Haryana	1035	1020	15	1.4	1285	1158	127	9.0
Himachal Pradesh	223	223	0	0.0	239	239	0	0.0
J&K	450	443	7	1.6	440	430	10	2.3
Punjab	1755	1747	8	0.5	2560	2278	282	11.0
Rajasthan	1765	1741	24	1.4	1895	1745	150	7.9
U.P.	3560	3271	289	8.1	3715	3306	409	11.0
Total (Northern Region)	10153	9791	362	3.6	11739	10694	1045	8.9

(c) There has been spurt in power demand in the Northern Region due to persistent heat wave and early sowing of paddy/crops in Punjab and parts of Haryana. Consequently, the energy requirement during the month of May, 98 increased by more than 13% as compared to May, 97. Even though the energy availability in the Northern Region during the month of May, 98 was higher to about 10% as compared to May, 1997, the gap between requirement and availability increased due to excessive increase in demand.

(d) All efforts are being made to revive the generating units which are presently under outage in the Central as well as State Sectors. Generation at Bhakara-Beas Hydro Stations has been maximised to assist States of Northern Region.

Introduction of Dual Tariff Rates

1598. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are planning to come out